

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 GENEVA 01640 131231Z

53

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-20 L-03 H-03 INR-10 SNM-02 SCI-06

NEA-10 EA-11 IOE-00 PRS-01 DRC-01 RSC-01 /083 W

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P 131200Z MAR 74

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4584

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 1640

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, UN

SUBJ: CND-ITEM 9 ON WORLD OPIUM SUPPLY

REF: GENEVA 1442

1. IN REPORTING CND'S DISCUSSION OF OPIUM QUESTION (REFTEL), USDEL NOTED THAT DND DIRECTOR MARTENS, AT OUTSET OF DEBATE ON AGENDA ITEM 9, MADE UNFORTUNATE INTORDUCTORY REMARKS IN WHICH HE MENTIONED POSSIBILITY OF NEW COUNTRIES ENTERING PRODUCTION AS ONE WAY OBTAIN MORE NARCOTIC RAW MATERIALS FOR CODEINE. IT HAD BEEN GENERALLY ASSUMED THAT SINCE INCB'S REPORT WAS BASIS FOR DISCUSSION, DEBAT WOULD BE INITIATED BY BOARD PRESIDENT GREENFIELD. MOREOVER, AMBASSADOR VANCE HAD GIVEN ADVANCE COPY OF HIS PROPOSED STATEMENT TO MARTENS AND DISCUSSED SCENARIO FOR DEBATE WITH HIM AND AT NO TIME DID MARTENS INDICATE ANY INTENTION INTERVENE IN DEBATE. THEREFORE HIS REMARKS WERE TOTALLY UNEXPECTED. IN ANY CASE, TEXT OF MARTENS' STATEMENT WAS SUBSEQUENTLY WITHDRAWN " AS NOT BEING AVAILABLE FOR GENERAL CIRCULATION" AND WHILE IT MIGHT HAVE HAD A BEARING ON ORAKZAI'S DECIDING MAKE SPEECH OFFERING PAKISTAN'S ENTRY INTO LICIT EXPORT MARKET, IT OTHERWISE APPEARED HAVE NO IMPACT ON DEBATE.

2. LOOKING TOWARD CND REPORT TO ECOSOC, HOWEVER, WE, IN CONCERT WITH INCB, MOVED BEHIND THE SCENES TO ENSURE THAT UNFORTUNATE
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PAGE 02 GENEVA 01640 131231Z

ALTERNATIVES MENTIONED BY MARTENS WERE NOT INCLUDED IN DRAFT

REPORT, AND, WITH COOPERATION DND OFFICIAL DAVIES, WE WERE ABLE TO CHANGE UNSATISFACTORY TEXT WHICH HAD ALREADY BEEN PREPARED TO REFER MERELY TO MARTENS' MENTIONING POSSIBILITY OF INCREASING "EXISTING LICIT OPIUM PRODUCTION FOR EXPORT WITH PROPER CONTROLS".

3. UNHAPPILY SECRETARIAT DID NOT TAKE NECESSARY FOLLOW-UP ACTION TO ENSURE THAT PROVISIONAL SUMMARY RECORD OF RELEVANT CND MEETING WAS CONSISTENT WITH LANGUAGE AGREED IN REPORT AS ADOPTED BY COMMISSION. TEXT OF SUMMARY RECORD AS RECEIVED BY US, INCB AND OTHER MISSIONS MARCH 11 REPORTS MARTENS AS STATING THAT WAYS AND MEANS FOR OBTAINING MORE CODEINE HAD TO BE SOUGHT AND ONE POSSIBILITY ACHIEVE THIS WOULD BE "BY HAVING COUNTRIES..RESUME OR START PRODUCTION".

4. IN MARTENS' ABSENCE, INCB SECRETARY DITTERT MADE PROTEST TO ACTING DND DIRECTOR SOTIROFF (WHO WROTE MARTENS SPEECH) AND INSISTED THAT PROVISIONAL RECORD BE AMENDED IN DIRECTION LANGUAGE OF CND REPORT. WE DISCUSSED WITH DITTERT OTHER STEPS THAT MIGHT BE TAKEN TO MITIGATE DAMAGING EFFECT OF PROVISIONAL RECORD WHICH ALREADY IN HANDS OF MISSIONS/GOVERNMENTS OF SUCH PROBLEM COUNTRIES AS TURKEY, THAILAND AND PAKISTAN. DITTERT AND WE CONCLUDED THAT ACTION WHICH WOULD DRAW ATTENTION TO DOCUMENT WOULD BE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE, ALTHOUGH EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE ENSURE THAT MARTENS DOES NOT REPEAT UNFORTUNATE REMARKS IN HIS STATEMENT BEFORE ECOSOC.

5. WE HAVE REPORTED THIS INCIDENT IN SOME DETAIL SINCE PROBLEM COUNTRIES, NOTABLY TURKEY, MAY VERY WELL CITE MARTENS' REMARKS CONTAINED PROVISIONAL SUMMARY RECORD AS JUSTIFICATION FOR ENTERING LICIT OPIUM TRADE.

6. SUGGEST THAT DEPARTMENT CONSIDER INSTRUCTING US TO MAKE DEMARCHE TO MARTENS (HE IS EXPECTED TO RETURN GENEVA MARCH 18), EXPRESSING USG'S DISPLEASURE AT UNNECESSARY AND DAMAGING STATEMENT HE MADE IN CND AND REQUESTING THAT HE AVOID REITERATING ANY SUCH APPROACH IN FUTURE IN ECOSOC OR ELSEWHERE. DALE

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